

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 - 31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) An information recording medium comprising:

a substrate;

a recording layer for recording information in a form of a recording mark based on atomic arrangement change and/or electric state change caused by irradiation of an energy beam;

a reflective layer for reflecting the energy beam;

a first protective layer disposed between the substrate and the recording layer;

a second protective layer disposed between the recording layer and the reflective layer;

a third protective layer that has a composition different from the first protective layer disposed between the first protective layer and the recording layer;

a fourth protective layer that has a composition different from the second protective layer disposed between the recording layer and the second protective layer;

wherein said first protective layer and said second protective layer contain ZnS;

wherein said third protective layer and said fourth protective layer contain any one of an oxide, a nitride and a fluoride;

wherein a thickness of said third protective layer and said fourth protective layer are not less than 2nm and not more than 8nm;

wherein said reflective layer has a first reflective layer and second reflective layer;

wherein said first reflective layer is disposed closer to said recording layer than said second reflective layer and contains at least one of Ti, Cr, Co, Ni, Mg, Si, V, Ca, Fe, Zn, Zr, Nb, Mo, Rh, Sn, Sb, Te, Ta, W, Ir, Pb, B and C;

wherein said second reflective layer contains at least one of Al, Cu, Ag, Au, Pt and Pd, and sum of contents of these atoms in said second reflective layer is larger than that of contents of these atoms in said first reflective layer.

33 - 38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) An information recording medium according to claim 32,

wherein the third protective layer prevents mutual diffusion of a material of the first protective layer and a material of the recording layer.

40. (previously presented) An information recording medium according to claim 32,

wherein the fourth protective layer prevents mutual diffusion of a material of the second protective layer and a material of the recording layer.

41 - 43. (canceled)